

Ford Confirms His Selection Of Rumsfeld and Bush for Posts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—President Ford confirmed to congressional leaders yesterday that he would nominate White House chief of staff Donald Rumsfeld to be secretary of defense and George Bush, now head of the American liaison office in China, to be CIA director.

The confirmation came even before Ford formally announced the dismissals of Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger and CIA Director William Colby.

There was no clear explanation for the swift and highly secretive upheaval in the administration, although aides to the President said that he simply wanted to establish his own team. The President was expected to offer additional details at a news conference scheduled for last night.

As part of the shake-up, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is to be removed from his post as chairman of the National Security Council. He will be replaced by his deputy, Air Force Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft.

Coinciding with these changes was an announcement by Vice President Nelson Rockefeller yesterday that he would not be a candidate for that office next year.

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield told reporters that Ford called him yesterday morning to tell him of the plans to appoint Bush and Rumsfeld. The senator said the President denied that Kissinger, who has had a series of policy disputes with Schlesinger, was behind the dismissals.

"The President told me what he did he was doing on his own," Mansfield said. "He said that for some

time he had wanted to set up his own team."

Mansfield said he considered Rumsfeld and Bush to be excellent choices.

Other sources reported that Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott was a prime prospect to succeed Bush in Peking. Scott said he had not been offered the post.

Some observers, questioning whether Ford would appoint Scott now, noted that Gov. Milton J. Shapp probably would name a Democrat to fill any Senate vacancy. Democrats now have a 62-38 advantage in the Senate, and it's unlikely that Ford would take a chance on widening that margin.

The President canceled all appointments yesterday, and one White House source said that meetings planned for the next several days had been postponed as well.

Presidential Press Secretary Ron Nessen said that Ford and Kissinger met for about an hour yesterday morning and that Ford had held a series of other sessions with key White House aids, mainly in groups.

Schlesinger and Kissinger have had long-standing disagreements on détente. The dispute surfaced most recently when Schlesinger complained of a growing Soviet military build-up while the secretary of state was trying to negotiate an arms limitation accord with Moscow.

Democratic critics of Kissinger said the shake up amounted to a victory for him in the power struggle with Schlesinger.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D., Wash.), a Schlesinger defender, termed Kissinger's removal from the NSC Post as a "sop." Critics have said that job and Kissinger's cabinet Post gave hint too much power.

Jackson contended that Schlesin-

ger's ouster represented the end of the "last vestige of dissent" to Kissinger's national security policies.

Colby's departure from the embattled CIA was, unlike Schlesinger's, widely expected for some time. Last month, Colby told the annual meeting of the Associated Press Managing Editors in Williamsburg, Va., "It may be that a new face would make a new phase in the history of our intelligence activities."

The Harris Poll reported that President Ford's job rating with the American people had dropped again, to a 59-38 percent negative margin. This represents a drop of 3 percent from September.

"Mr. Ford's troubles stem directly from continuing public disenchantment with his economic policies and his inability to gain public confidence in his handling of foreign policy matters," Harris said.